Child Trafficking

379. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child trafficking on the ground of adoption is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the same;

(c) under what provision of law the persons indulging in trafficking are prosecuted; and

(d) whether Government is having any plan to strengthen law to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The law for dealing with child traffickers includes the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, relevant provisions under the IPC/CrPC and any other law prevalent in the respective State Governments/Union Territories. The existing laws are considered adequate to prevent and punish such actions.

Violence against religious minorities

380. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the newsitem captioned "Violence against religious minorities in India alarming, US report" appearing in the Hindu dated 20th June, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that violence against persons/ institutions or religious affiliations and Christian community has increased since January, 1998;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to stop such violence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There has not been any alarming increase in the incidents of communal violence against minorities since 1998. However, there have been some incidents of violence against Christians and their institutions, but most of these incidents relate to law and order/crime. In the case of bomb blasts in Church premises in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa in the year 2000, the involvement of activists of an organization called the 'Deendar Anjuman' has been established. This organization has been declared unlawful on 28.4.2001 under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

(d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' appear at Entry No. 1 and 2 of List-II State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to maintain public order and peace, including registration, investigation of crime and compiling of relating to communal incidents.

The Government of India shares intelligence and sends advisories/ alert messages to the States/UTs from time to time and Central Para-military Forces are made available to them on specific request. A special force called the Rapid Action Force is deployed to deal exclusively with the communal tensions. Assistance is also being provided to State Governments for modernization of their policing infrastructure. In addition, detailed guidelines have been issued in October, 1997 for the promotion of communal harmony.